

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00
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E.O. 11652: NA
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SUBJECT: BULGARIAN-SOVIET TRADE PROTOCOL FOR 1977

REF: A. 76 MOSCOW 19869 B. 76 SOFIA 2145

1. BULGARIAN PAPERS OF JAN 13 ANNOUNCED SIGNING IN
SOFIA OF 1977 BULGARIAN-SOVIET TRADE PROTOCOL. TOTAL
TRADE TURNOVER IS TO BE 4.8 BILLION RUBLES, A 11.3
PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1976 TRADE (4.3 BILLION RUBLES).
DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED JAN 12 BY GOB MINISTER OF FOREIGN
TRADE IVAN NEDEV AND BY SOVIET COUNTERPART NIKOLAY
PATOLICHEV.

2. SOVIET UNION WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY VAST MAJORITY
OF BULGARIAN REQUIREMENTS OF RAW MATERIALS,
MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT. 1977 DELIVERIES ARE TO
INCLUDE 11 MILLION TONS OF OIL, 6.2 MILLION TONS OF
COAL, 3 BILLION CUBIC METERS OF NATURAL GAS, AND 4 BILLION
KWH OF ELECTRICITY. OTHER RESOURCES SUPPLIED WILL
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INCLUDE IRON ORE WITH 850,000 TONS IRON CONTENT,
500,000 TONS ROLLED IRON AND STEEL, 360,000 TONS PIG
IRON, 190,000 TONS OF SHAPED WOOD, 47,000 TONS OF
PAPER, AND OTHER PRODUCTS.

3. SOVIET DELIVERIES OF INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT AND
FACILITIES ARE NOT DETAILED, BUT TOTAL VALUE IS TO BE

830 MILLION RUBLES. SOVIET INDUSTRIAL CONSUMER PRODUCTS WILL INCLUDE CONSUMER DURABLES SUCH AS WASHING MACHINES, COLOR TELEVISIONS, AND PASSENGER CARS.

4. BULGARIAN EXPORTS SHOW CONTINUED SHIFT IN VALUE AWAY FROM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TOWARD INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT. LATTER CATEGORIES WILL TOTAL OVER 1.1 BILLION RUBLES WHICH, ACCORDING TO MINISTER NEDEV IS 50.2 PERCENT OF TOTAL BULGARIAN EXPORTS TO USSR COMPARED TO 46.7 PERCENT IN 1976. MAJOR PRODUCTS ARE TO INCLUDE ELECTRIC AND GASOLINE INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS, COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND COMPONENTS, SUB-ASSEMBLIES FOR AUTOMOBILES AND A NUMBER OF CONSUMER GOODS. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WILL INCLUDE TOMATOES, CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, CIGARETTES AND WINE.

5. COMMENT: COMPARED TO PREVIOUS PRESS COVERAGE, DETAILS, PARTICULARLY ON ENERGY ARE ABUNDANT. USING BULGARIAN FIGURES EMBASSY CALCULATES THAT BULGARIAN SHARE OF TOTAL BILATERAL TRADE WILL BE ABOUT 2.2 BILLION RUBLES, RESULTING IN A DEFICIT OF ABOUT 400 MILLION RUBLES. THIS DEFICIT MAY NOT BE AS LARGE AS IT APPEARS SINCE SOME OF SOVIET EXPORTS MAY BE COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES OF SOME 15,000-20,000 BULGARIAN WORKERS INVOLVED IN VARIOUS PROJECTS IN USSR. (BULGARIAN NET DEFICIT IS PERMITTED TO GO AS HIGH AS 100 MILLION RUBLES UNDER "SWING" BALANCE AGREEMENT (REF. B.),) HERZ

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